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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

A REPORT BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY PREPARED IN COORDINATION WITH THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

JANUARY | Wesley S. Noyes, Jr., Editor, Supervisor, Economic Analysis and Reports | 87-1

With this report for January 1987 comes the introduction of a monthly economic conditions report for the Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA's. The Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA's is comprised of twenty one cities and towns in New Hampshire and eight towns in York County, Maine, and was created in January 1985 as a result of federal implementation of revised definitions of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's). We will now be producing monthly employment estimates by industry as well as manufacturing hours and earnings information for this area as we currently do for the Manchester and Nashua MSA's.

Once each year, prior to the publishing of January data, the employment and unemployment estimates for the two previous years are revised based on complete employment data reported by all employers covered by the New Hampshire Unemployment Compensation Law and adjustments made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In 1986, New Hampshire averaged 16,000 unemployed or 2.8 percent of the civilian labor force of 562,000. The 1985 civilian unemployment rate was 3.9 percent. Total unemployment increased by 2,390 from mid-December to mid-January. The latest total of 16,500 unemployed represents 3.0 percent of the civilian labor force of 556,440. The rate was 2.5 percent in December and 4.0 percent a year ago. Nationally the rates were 7.3 percent in January, 6.3 percent in December, and 7.3 percent a year ago. Layoffs occurred in trade as a result of the end of the Christmas season, and in construction as a result of deteriorating weather conditions. Nine areas recorded unemployment increases led by the Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA's with 840 more unemployed. Three areas had unemployment decreases led by the Claremont area with 290 fewer unemployed. Year ago comparisons indicate that all areas recorded lower levels of unemployment.

December 1986 marked the seventeenth consecutive month that New Hampshire has posted the lowest state unemployment rate in the country. Obviously, New Hampshire's 1986 annual unemployment rate of 2.8 percent will be the lowest state rate country wide. In 1985, our 3.9 rate tied with Massachusetts for the lowest rate, and in 1984 and 1983 we tied with South Dakota. We must be doing something right! Actually, New Hampshire's industrial mix has gone a long way in creating and maintaining a very strong and vibrant economy. Our January 1987 rate of 3.0 percent compares with a national rate of 7.3 percent. Between 1980 and 1986, 103,300 new jobs were created in New Hampshire, a 26.8 percent increase. During that same period, the average weekly manufacturing wage rose from $225.92 to $362.56, a 60.5 percent increase, and the average hourly manufacturing wage rose from $5.62 to $8.80 or 56.6 percent. While manufacturing jobs increased by only 1.3 percent or 1,500 workers between 1980 and 1986, nonmanufacturing employment increased by 37.9 percent or 101,800 workers. In 1980, manufacturing represented 30.3 percent of total nonagricultural employment while in 1986 it represented only 24.2 percent. Trade employment increased by 48.2 percent between 1980 and 1986, services by 48.9 percent, and construction by 73.8 percent.

Revised employment and hours and earnings will be published next month for 1985 and 1986.

New Hampshire Labor Force, Total Employment and Unemployment and Nonagricultural
Wage and Salary Employment as of the Middle of the Month

Industry	State					Manchester MSA					Nashua PMSA				
	Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous		Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous		Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous	
	Jan. 1987	Dec. 1986	Jan. 1986	Month	Year	Jan. 1987	Dec. 1986	Jan. 1986	Month	Year	Jan. 1987	Dec. 1986	Jan. 1986	Month	Year
1. Civilian labor force*	556,440	565,950	548,380	-9,510	18,060	83,390	84,870	82,760	-1,480	630	91,740	93,160	89,850	-1,420	1,890
2. Unemployment	16,500	14,110	21,860	2,390	-5,360	2,100	1,370	3,090	730	-990	2,660	2,180	3,590	480	-930
Percent of labor force	3.0	2.5	4.0	xxx	xxx	2.5	1.6	3.7	xxx	xxx	2.9	2.3	4.0	xxx	xxx
3. Employment total	539,590	551,490	526,520	-11,900	13,070	81,290	83,500	79,670	-2,210	1,620	89,080	90,980	86,260	-1,900	2,820
4. Persons involved in labor disputes	350	350	0	0	350	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nonagri. wage & salary**	492,750	499,650	472,000	-6,900	20,750	85,400	85,900	81,650	-500	3,750	88,200	88,850	84,550	-650	3,650
Manufacturing	118,000	117,700	120,100	300	-2,100	13,250	13,400	14,550	-150	-1,300	35,250	35,200	35,900	50	-650
Durable goods	81,150	80,850	82,850	300	-1,700	8,100	8,100	8,800	0	-700	29,150	29,100	29,950	50	-800
Lumber & wood prods.	6,000	5,900	5,900	100	100										
Furniture & fixtures	1,600	1,600	1,600	0	0										
Stone & clay prods.	3,250	3,300	3,050	-50	200										
Primary metal prods.	*4,200	*4,250	4,350	-50	-150										
Fabricated metal prods.	6,800	6,750	7,000	50	-200										
Machinery (exc. elec.)	24,400	24,000	25,600	400	-1,200										
Electrical prods.	23,550	23,650	24,000	-100	-450	4,600	4,600	5,200	0	-600	22,250	22,100	22,750	150	-500
Miscellaneous prods.	1,950	2,000	2,150	-50	-200										
Other durables	9,400	9,400	9,200	0	200	3,500	3,500	3,600	0	-100	6,900	7,000	7,200	-100	-300
Nondurable goods	36,850	36,850	37,250	0	-400	5,150	5,300	5,750	-150	-600	6,100	6,100	5,950	0	150
Food & kindred prods.	3,100	3,150	2,800	-50	300										
Textile mill prods.	3,850	3,750	3,500	100	350										
Apparel	2,450	2,450	2,400	0	50	1,500	1,500	1,550	0	-50					
Paper & allied prods.	5,550	5,500	5,600	50	-50										
Print., pub. & allied	7,600	7,650	7,250	-50	350										
Leather & lea. prods.	4,550	4,600	5,300	-50	-750										
Other nondurables	9,750	9,750	10,400	0	-650	3,650	3,800	4,200	-150	-550					
Nonmanufacturing	374,750	381,950	351,900	-7,200	22,850	72,150	72,500	67,100	-350	5,050	52,950	53,650	48,650	-700	4,300
Construction (inc. min.)	33,350	34,700	32,250	-1,350	1,100	6,100	6,050	5,050	50	1,050	5,000	4,950	4,000	50	1,000
Trans., comm. & util.	17,600	17,500	16,050	100	1,550	4,900	4,900	4,750	0	150	2,200	2,200	2,150	0	50
Trade	123,250	127,700	112,850	-4,450	10,400	23,550	23,950	21,800	-400	1,750	20,600	20,950	18,000	-350	2,600
Fin., ins. & real estate	29,400	29,700	26,800	-300	2,600	8,150	8,150	7,300	0	850	3,250	3,250	3,050	0	200
Service industry & other	108,300	108,250	102,500	50	5,800	21,600	21,500	20,400	100	1,200	15,800	16,050	15,400	-250	400
Government	62,850	64,100	61,450	-1,250	1,400	7,850	7,950	7,800	-100	50	6,100	6,250	6,050	-150	50
Federal	8,350	8,400	8,000	-50	350	2,500	2,550	2,300	-50	200	800	800	750	0	50
State	17,050	17,600	16,600	-550	450	850	850	800	0	50	250	250	250	0	0
Local	37,450	38,100	36,850	-650	600	4,500	4,550	4,700	-50	-200	5,050	5,200	5,050	-150	0

Machinery And Electrical Products Combined

* By place of residence

** By place of establishment Benchmark

Labor Disputes:

December 1986 & January 1987 - Industry 33 - 350 workers on strike not included.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE BY AREA AND COUNTY

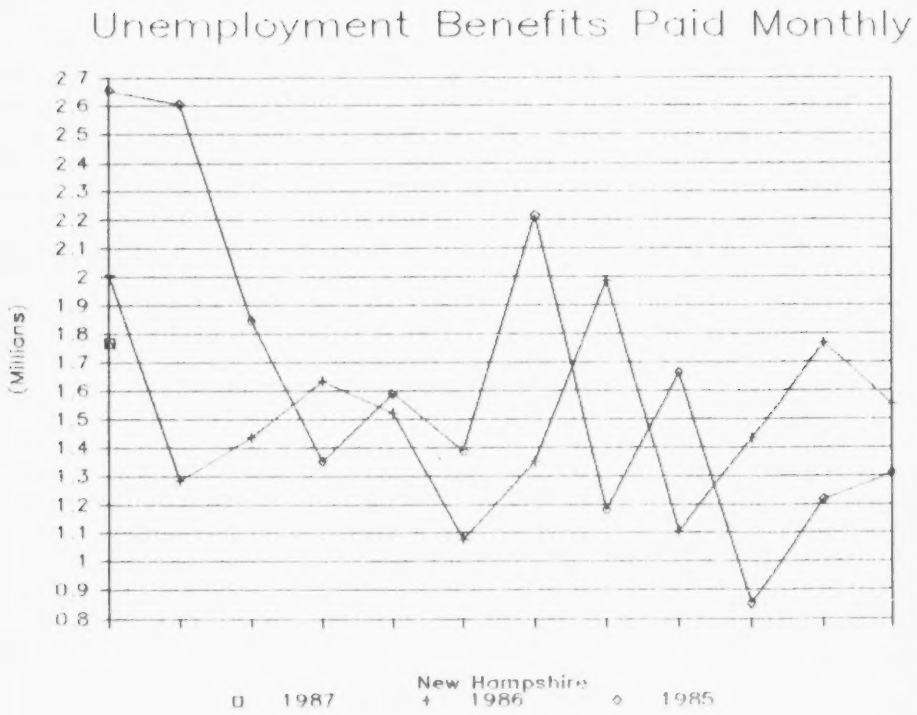
Area	Unemployment*								Civilian Labor Force				
	January 1987		December 1986		January 1986		Numerical Change From Previous		January	December	January	Numerical Change From Previous	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Month	Year	1987	1986	1986	Month	Year
UNITED STATES**	8,620	7.3	8,209	7.0	8,472	7.3	411	148	117,703	117,707	115,431	-4	2,272
NEW HAMPSHIRE	16,500	3.0	14,110	2.5	21,860	4.0	2,390	-5,360	556,440	565,950	548,380	-9,510	8,060
BERLIN LMA	810	3.3	580	2.4	1,240	5.0	230	-430	24,870	24,250	24,860	620	10
CLAREMONT LMA	890	2.4	1,180	3.1	910	2.5	-290	-20	37,590	38,080	35,880	-490	1,710
CONCORD LMA	1,260	2.5	970	1.9	1,560	3.1	290	-300	50,320	50,700	49,700	-380	620
KEENE LMA	860	2.2	730	1.8	1,190	3.1	130	-330	38,230	39,560	37,990	-1,330	240
LACONIA LMA	1,350	2.8	1,070	2.2	1,770	3.7	280	-420	47,380	48,850	47,550	-1,470	-170
LITTLETON LMA	480	2.9	520	3.1	880	5.2	-40	-400	16,750	16,660	17,050	90	-300
MANCHESTER MSA	2,100	2.5	1,370	1.6	3,090	3.7	730	-990	83,390	84,870	82,760	-1,480	630
NASHUA PMSA	2,660	2.9	2,180	2.3	3,590	4.0	480	-930	91,740	93,160	89,850	-1,420	1,890
N.H. PORTION LAWRENCE-HAVERHILL MA. PMSA***	1,910	4.0	2,090	4.3	2,760	5.6	-180	-850	47,320	48,680	48,940	-1,360	-1,620
PORTSMOUTH-DOVER-ROCHESTER N.H.-ME.	3,830	3.1	2,990	2.4	4,380	3.7	840	-550	122,880	125,570	117,980	-2,690	4,900
UNATTACHED ESTIMATING AREA****	790	4.3	570	3.1	900	5.2	220	-110	18,180	18,490	17,390	-310	790
N.H. PORTION LOWELL MA. PMSA	230	4.5	220	4.2	280	5.5	10	-50	5,060	5,210	5,110	-150	-50
County													
BELKNAP	720	2.9	600	2.4	960	3.9	120	-240	24,730	25,490	24,830	-760	-100
CARROLL	400	2.4	320	1.9	470	2.8	80	-70	16,970	17,010	16,780	-40	190
CHESHIRE	810	2.4	680	1.9	1,100	3.2	130	-290	34,180	35,350	33,960	-1,170	220
COOS	770	4.0	630	3.3	1,320	6.7	140	-550	19,300	18,890	19,560	410	-260
GRAFTON	850	2.3	760	2.0	1,290	3.5	90	-480	37,520	37,750	37,120	-230	400
HILLSBOROUGH	4,840	2.8	3,690	2.1	6,760	3.9	1,150	-1,920	174,050	177,050	171,620	-3,000	2,430
MERRIMACK	1,470	2.5	1,070	2.0	1,880	3.2	400	-410	59,940	60,620	59,280	-680	660
ROCKINGHAM	4,160	3.6	3,880	3.7	5,340	4.6	280	-1,180	116,150	118,740	115,000	-2,590	1,150
STRAFFORD	1,870	3.5	1,560	3.2	2,190	4.2	310	-320	54,190	55,230	51,770	-1,040	2,420
SULLIVAN	610	3.1	920	2.6	550	3.0	-310	60	19,410	19,820	18,460	-410	950

* Based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics "43 Step Method" handbook adjusted to the Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates.

** In thousands, not seasonally adjusted.

*** New Hampshire Portion of the Lawrence-Haverhill, Massachusetts Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area which includes Salem and twelve small towns.

**** Includes twenty towns previously in either Dover, Portsmouth, Manchester or Nashua LMAS.



AREA DEFINITIONS

Manchester MSA includes the city of Manchester and towns of Allenstown, Auburn, Bedford, Candia, Goffstown, Hooksett.

Nashua PMSA is located in the southern section of Hillsborough County and includes the City of Nashua and the towns of Amherst, Brookline, Greenville, Hollis, Litchfield, Londonderry, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, and Wilton.

U. S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Item	1987	1986	1985	1984
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers				
Current month - January	327.7			
Percent change from year ago	1.0			
Year average		323.4	318.5	307.6
Percent increase each year		1.5	3.5	3.4
All Urban Consumers				
Current month - January	333.1			
Percent change from year ago	1.4			
Year average		328.4	322.2	311.1
Percent increase each year		1.9	3.6	4.3

Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester Civilian Labor Force,
Total Employment and Unemployment
as of the Middle of the Month

Industry	Number of Workers January 1987	December 1986	January 1986	Numerical Change From Previous Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	122,880	125,570	117,980	-2,690	4,900
Unemployment	3,830	2,990	4,380	840	-550
Percent of Labor Force	3.1	2.4	3.7	xxx	xxx
Employment Total	119,050	122,580	113,600	-3,530	5,450
Persons Involved in Labor Disputes	0	0	0	0	0
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary	103,400	105,000	97,900	-1,600	5,500
Manufacturing	20,200	20,250	20,950	-50	-750
Durable Goods	12,200	12,250	12,450	-50	-250
Nondurable Goods	8,000	8,000	8,500	0	-500
Nonmanufacturing	83,200	84,750	76,950	-1,550	6,250
Construction (inc mining)	5,050	5,600	4,400	-550	650
Trans., Commun. & Utilities	2,750	2,850	2,450	-100	300
Trade	27,150	27,700	23,850	-550	3,300
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	6,000	6,000	5,400	0	600
Services	17,900	17,900	16,300	0	1,600
Government	24,350	24,700	24,550	-350	-200
Federal	10,350	10,400	11,150	-50	-800
State	5,150	5,400	5,100	-250	50
Local	8,850	8,900	8,300	-50	550

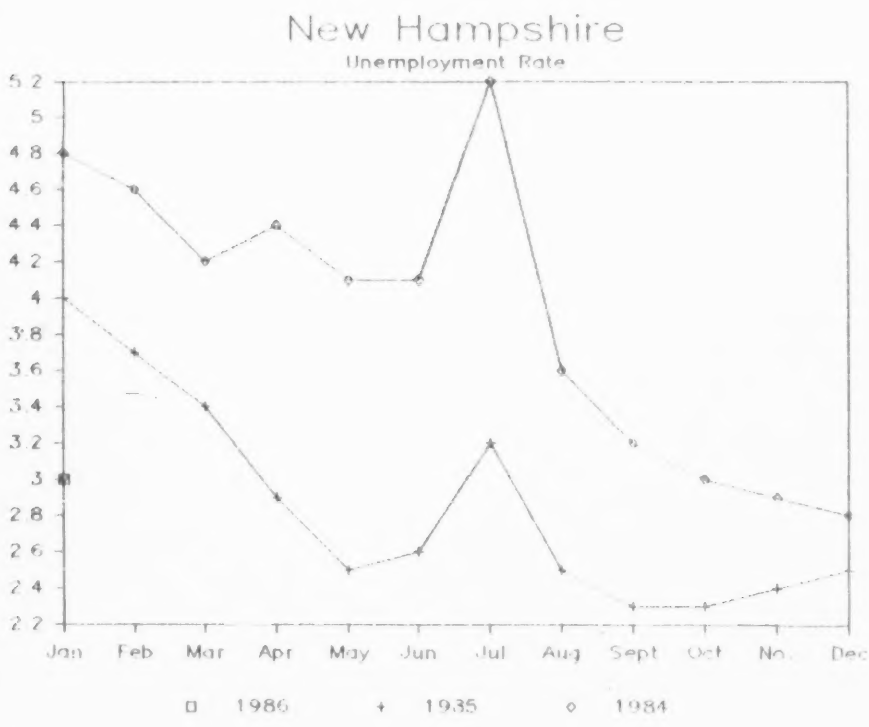
Industry	Average Weekly Earnings Jan. 1987	Dec. 1986	Jan. 1986	Average Weekly Earnings Jan. 1987	Dec. 1986	Jan. 1986	Average Hourly Earnings Jan. 1987	Dec. 1986	Jan. 1986
Manufacturing	$350.73	$369.96	$361.49	39.1	40.7	40.8	$8.97	$9.09	$8.86
Durable Goods	402.52	417.74	405.82	40.7	41.9	41.2	9.89	9.97	9.85
Nondurable - Goods	274.90	300.70	300.70	36.8	38.9	40.2	7.47	7.73	7.48

Sample Percent of Production Workers	Total Production Workers	Firms Reporting
35%	14,100	41

Weekly Claims Filed During January
Classified by Local Office

Area	Unemployment Compensation		U.C. State Workers (Only)		UC Local Government		Servicemen UCX (Only)		U.C. Federal Employees No UI	
	Init.	Cont.	Int.	Cont.	Init.	Cont.	Int.	Cont.	Init.	Cont.
All Offices	4,682	18,022	13	16	16	19	43	80	20	33
Berlin	149	725	0	1	0	0	2	4	0	0
Claremont	161	1,105	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0
Concord	362	1,038	1	3	0	1	5	6	1	0
Conway	74	223	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	1
Dover	941	3,681	3	3	3	2	8	8	9	9
Keene	178	653	1	3	1	5	2	8	0	3
Laconia	294	1,547	0	1	1	1	5	4	0	0
Lebanon	62	289	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0
Littleton	329	863	0	0	1	0	2	3	0	1
Manchester	825	2,463	6	2	1	0	5	5	2	3
Nashua	380	1,375	0	0	2	6	1	4	0	3
Portsmouth	493	1,867	1	0	2	1	10	25	2	2
Salem	181	475	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
Liable Interstate	253	1,718	0	1	2	0	0	9	4	11

The average payment for a week of total unemployment was $121.78



Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance End of Month

$138,441,760.71

Net contributions received during month:

$ 1,596,469.83

Net benefits paid during month:

$ 1,767,994.97

Interest Received:

0

New Hampshire

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Jan. 1987	Dec. 1986	Jan. 1986	Jan. 1987	Dec. 1986	Jan. 1986	Jan. 1987	Dec. 1986	Jan. 1986
All manufacturing	$375.72	$384.20	$352.19	41.7	42.5	41.0	$9.01	$9.04	$8.59
Durable goods	393.47	399.11	366.68	42.4	43.1	41.2	9.28	9.26	8.90
Lumber & wood prods.	304.71	298.25	260.55	40.9	40.8	38.6	7.45	7.31	6.75
Furniture & fixtures	291.99	323.39	272.83	41.3	44.3	40.3	7.07	7.30	6.77
Stone & clay prods.	368.41	368.07	353.19	42.2	42.7	42.4	8.73	8.62	8.33
Primary metal prods.	449.29	422.11	367.77	45.2	44.2	39.0	9.94	9.55	9.43
Fab. metal prods.	387.49	378.56	353.10	41.8	41.6	40.4	9.27	9.10	8.74
Mach. (exc. elec.)	419.33	421.33	400.89	44.8	45.5	44.2	9.36	9.26	9.07
Electrical prods.	416.00	441.34	390.26	41.6	43.1	40.4	10.00	10.24	9.66
Miscellaneous prods.	282.36	281.97	282.03	39.0	39.0	39.5	7.24	7.23	7.14
Other durables	382.53	387.32	373.60	41.0	42.1	41.1	9.33	9.20	9.09
Nondurable goods	341.38	352.23	323.58	40.4	41.1	40.6	8.45	8.57	7.97
Food & kindred prods.	402.11	416.25	391.99	41.2	41.5	42.7	9.76	10.03	9.18
Textile mill prods.	333.49	314.57	296.94	42.7	41.5	42.0	7.81	7.58	7.07
Apparel	234.25	229.88	218.89	37.6	37.5	37.1	6.23	6.13	5.90
Paper & allied prods.	459.76	482.15	428.67	46.3	48.9	45.7	9.93	9.86	9.38
Print., pub. & allied	358.59	371.53	339.37	38.6	38.5	39.6	9.29	9.65	8.57
Leather & lea. prods.	200.91	209.52	193.75	34.7	36.0	35.1	5.79	5.82	5.52
Footwear	184.76	194.86	181.13	33.9	35.3	34.5	5.45	5.52	5.25
Other nondurables	358.28	378.48	353.17	40.9	42.1	41.5	8.76	8.99	8.51

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 33%

Total Production Workers: 82,300

Firms Reporting: 255

Manchester MSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Jan. 1987	Dec. 1986	Jan. 1986	Jan. 1987	Dec. 1986	Jan. 1986	Jan. 1987	Dec. 1986	Jan. 1986
All manufacturing	$378.02	$373.51	$339.15	41.0	41.0	39.9	$9.22	$9.11	$8.50
Durable goods	393.19	394.28	353.21	41.0	41.2	38.9	9.59	9.57	9.08
Mach. & elec. prods.	403.10	410.22	364.11	41.6	43.0	40.1	9.69	9.54	9.08
Other durables	380.69	374.79	339.06	40.2	39.0	37.3	9.47	9.61	9.09
Nondurable goods	353.87	341.47	317.48	41.1	40.7	41.5	8.61	8.39	7.65
Textiles & apparel	335.23	297.34	281.48	43.2	40.4	40.5	7.76	7.36	6.95
Other nondurables	362.60	359.45	331.43	40.2	40.8	41.9	9.02	8.81	7.91

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 37%

Total Production Workers: 9,900

Firms Reporting: 37

Nashua PMSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Jan. 1987	Dec. 1986	Jan. 1986	Jan. 1987	Dec. 1986	Jan. 1986	Jan. 1987	Dec. 1986	Jan. 1986
All manufacturing	$462.58	$487.26	$421.69	42.4	43.7	41.1	10.91	11.15	10.26
Durable goods	480.57	503.05	429.93	43.1	44.4	41.3	11.15	11.33	10.41
Mach. & elec. prods.	513.83	552.27	464.32	42.5	44.9	41.2	12.09	12.30	11.27
Other durables	402.69	394.07	349.02	44.3	43.4	41.6	9.09	9.08	8.39
Nondurable goods	393.82	420.21	389.61	39.7	40.6	40.5	9.92	10.35	9.62

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 33%

Total Production Workers: 19,700

Firms Reporting: 47

Number of Active Applicants and Female Applicants by Major Occupational Category
Period Ending January 1987

	NEW HAMPSHIRE		MANCHESTER		NASHUA	
	Total	Female	Total	Female	Total	Female
TOTAL	10,549	4,096	1,642	643	951	350
Prof., Tech. Managerial (00,19)	1,598	510	173	57	222	60
Clerical (20-24)	1,748	1,427	257	205	157	109
Sales (25-29)	478	211	106	31	44	18
Services (3)	1,516	955	249	160	102	52
Farm (4)	142	21	16	6	15	2
Processing (5)	173	51	29	6	18	7
Machine Trade (6)	836	161	110	39	59	10
Benchwork (7)	722	477	134	91	90	62
Structural (8)	2,240	120	340	21	141	7
Miscellaneous (9)	1,070	153	228	27	98	21
Unclassified	26	10	0	0	5	2

Employment Service Activity

ITEM	January 1987	December 1986	July 1, 1986 to January 31, 1987
Total applicants for employment	3,013	2,067	18,676
Total nonagricultural job openings received	1,447	848	14,773
Job openings unfilled end of month	1,296	1,308	xxx
Placements - nonagricultural & agricultural	648	1,177	6,714